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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/965,785	09/27/2001	Rick Rowe	IGTECH.0027P	3410
32856	7590	10/08/2003	EXAMINER	
WEIDE & MILLER, LTD. 7251 W. LAKE MEAD BLVD. SUITE 530 LAS VEGAS, NV 89128			MARKS, CHRISTINA M	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3713	

DATE MAILED: 10/08/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.		Applicant(s)	
	09/965,785		ROWE, RICK	
	Examiner		Art Unit	
	C. Marks		3713	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 31 July 2003.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 31 July 2003 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: |

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DETAILED ACTION

Specification

The objection to the specification is hereby withdrawn due to the changes in the amendment filed 31 July 2003.

Drawings

The objection to the drawings for not showing the physical environment as well as reference 60d being off the margin are withdrawn due to the new drawings filed 31 July 2003.

However, the drawings are still objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they do not include the following reference sign(s) mentioned in the description: 60h (page 19, paragraph 54). A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

The rejection of claims 1-4, 7-8, 10, and 12 are hereby withdrawn due to the additional limitations in the amendment filed 31 July 2003.

Claims 13-17 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Howington (US Application Publication 2002/01152120).

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Howington discloses a system for displaying information regarding a gaming system (Abstract) wherein the gaming system includes gaming system devices. The devices include an information host wherein the host includes a display adapted to display graphical information (FIG 7). A communication link occurs that allows information to be transmitted between the host and at least one gaming system device (paragraph 27). The system also includes a graphical user interface (FIG 7) that is displayable on the display and has a main window and a display area in which graphical representations of at least a portion of the said gaming system may be displayed in a virtual gaming system format (FIG 7). The graphical representation is in the form of bar charts that each represents the performance portion of each gaming system (paragraph 38). This performance portion of each machine is most definitely part of the gaming system. These bar charts are displayed in a virtual gaming system format, as each bar represents the performance of each machine (a portion of the overall gaming system) and is shown in a virtual manner (they are created and simulated by a computer) and they can be read and accessed by the user, thus providing a virtual gaming system format representing each gaming machine with its own bar graph. Further, means in the form of moving the cursor to any location on the bar graph are used to accept selection of at least one element displayed in the display area corresponding to the physical gaming system device (paragraph 38). This selection results in displaying information regarding the physical gaming device (paragraph 38).

Regarding claim 14, the graphical user interface provides a number of menus wherein information about the machine can be obtained (FIG 7, Machine Menus).

Regarding claim 15, the user can navigate through the machines of the casino by selecting their graphical element and seeing their location information as they choose, thus the

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information given with each selection provides a navigation selectable element, as the user can determine where the machine is located from the selection.

Regarding claims 16-17, as discussed above, the system generates a graphical user interface (GUI) and a graphical representation. Thus one of ordinary skill in the art would understand that means to generate a GUI and graphical representations are inherent to actually displaying a GUI and graphical representations.

Regarding claim 19, the system also includes a server for storing in a high performance data warehouse patron data (paragraphs 6-10) disclosed to be used for tracking purposes (paragraph 22). The server is capable of sharing patron data with other systems as well as within their own organization. Thus the organization is computer controlled as defined above, thus the patron data would be part of the data used by the information host that controls the system.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

Claims 1-10 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Howington (US Application Publication 2002/01152120) in view of SCADA Technology (Lookout and CiTect Software).

What Howington discloses has been discussed above and is incorporated herein.

Howington discloses generating a graphical representation of a gaming system that actually exists in a physical environment wherein the graphical representation includes elements

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representing one or more components in a gaming system. Howington further discloses that the system displays at least a portion of the graphical representation in a window of the GUI on a display device wherein each bar graph represents a displayed element. Howington further discloses that the user can select one or more of the elements in order to generate and display information regarding the components of the gaming system that are being represented by the graph element of the graphical representation.

Howington discloses the bar graphs representing the performance portions of the gaming system are the elements displayed. Though Howington discloses physical location coordinates associated with each element, Howington does not disclose that these elements are displayed in positions relative to one another corresponding to relative positions of said components of the gaming system in the physical environment that the elements represent.

CiTect SCADA Systems are designed to integrate the plant floor with business systems (CiTect, Plant2Business Solutions). Both CiTect and Lookout are Supervisory Control And Data Acquisition systems that allow the integration of a PC with graphic process and machine-status displays. (Technology Update: SCADA towards MES, page 2). A typical SCADA system integrates the plant floor with a PC and increasingly includes HMI (human/machine interface). The technology actually uses elements and graphic representations of the plant floor in order to graphically portray the elements in physical locations relative the positions in the actual plant (FIG 1). SCADA systems such as Lookout, automates reporting and statistical process control while integrating inventory management (Technology Update: SCADA towards MES, page 5). Lookout can be configured to a specific application to meet the needs and desires of the consumers (Technology Update: SCADA towards MES, page 6). Further, the entire plant area is

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monitored and controlled by Lookout wherein screen graphics symbolize and color-code the status of nearly 300 devices (Technology Update: SCADA towards MES, page 6) thus allowing customization to be able to display the elements to be displayed in positions relative to one another to represent the actual plant.

The disclosure of SCADA systems is an alternate way to present information when monitoring the status of a commercial area. One of ordinary skill in the art would thus find it obvious to incorporate the graphical representations of SCADA systems into the system of Howington. One of ordinary skill in the art would be motivated to make this incorporation in order to provide a more realistic display regarding the status of machines on the plant floor. By providing machines that are displayed and positioned corresponding to their actual location, a certain area could be monitored much easier than by coordinates only. Thus, the incorporation of the actual physical machines as a way to prompt the display of the information already gathered by Howington would have been an obvious design choice to one of ordinary skill in the art, as it is just an alternate visual display of the quantitative information. Further, it is notoriously well known in the art that users prefer systems which are 1) easier to use and 2) better looking. This goal would be met by the displays disclosed by SCADA and thus providing a more graphical and realistic looking system for the user would further obviate the incorporation of such displays over plain graphical displays.

Methods of displaying quantitative information are notoriously well known in the art and it is known to present information in a manner that is instantaneously recognizable and one of ordinary skill in the art would be readily enable to create a GUI based navigational format out of any textual information to present the information in a more user friendly manner. The manner in

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which the designer chooses to present the information is merely a design choice, motivated by the needs and desires of the system the designer is creating.

Regarding claim 2, SCADA systems allow the user to configure the display of the floor area in any manner they desire as a way to customize the area. FIG 1 (Technology Update: SCADA towards MES, page 1) shows how the system can allow the representation of at least a portion of the physical environment (tanks, pipelines, lights, etc).

Regarding claim 3, the display of the elements is relative to a represented physical environment, as discussed above.

Regarding claim 4, SCADA systems allow information about the elements to be generated and displayed on the element itself (FIG 1). Howington discloses displaying the information in a window. One of ordinary skill in the art would certainly understand that it would be obvious to the combination of the references that when the machine is selected, a window could be incorporated to show the information as opposed to displaying it on the machine itself and such a concept would be an obvious design choice to a skilled artisan in order to relieve the clutter of having to put all the information on the machine.

Regarding claims 5-6, the elements and the actual display are remote from each other and information is thus retrieved remotely (from the element which is a component of the gaming system) when desired as the slot machine element sends the information to the display system.

Regarding claim 7, the system of Howington fully supports displaying a menu and navigation elements as discussed above.

Regarding claim 8, it would be obvious to the combination disclosed above that when the element is selected; the information gathered by Howington for the machine would be displayed

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as one of ordinary skill in the art would understand the purpose of displaying such machines as disclosed by SCADA is the ability to monitor such machines. Thus, the selection of the machine would axiomatically result in an application-initiating element in order to display the information obtained from the machine.

Regarding claim 9, SCADA discloses that each element can be a container element in itself by containing and displaying information relating to any parameter desired (FIG 1) that has been tracked and stored, which is done by the Howington system.

Regarding claim 10, one of ordinary skill in the art would understand that when applying the teachings of SCADA to the disclosure of Howington to incorporate a more visual system, the elements on the floor that would be monitored and thus displayed would be those of gaming machines.

Regarding claim 12, a sample of a SCADA screen is shown in FIG 1 (Technology Update: SCADA towards MES, page 1). Technology Update: SCADA towards MES further discloses that a SCADA system can monitor and graphically symbolize and color code nearly 300 devices. One of ordinary skill in the art would thus understand that a multitude of screens that could be navigated would need to be incorporated in order to portray the nearly 300 devices with the intended accuracy that is the basis of the system.

Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Howington (US Application Publication 2002/01152120) in view of SCADA Technology (Lookout and CiTect Software) further in view of Soltys et al. (US Patent No. 6,460,848).

What Howington and SCADA disclose has been discussed above and is incorporated herein.

Howington and SCADA disclose a system and method for management used to monitor a number of machines in the system. Howington embodies the system for gaming machines in a casino environment.

Howington and SCADA do not disclose a camera for collecting image information or to provide visual information regarding a portion of the gaming system. Howington and SCADA also do not disclose means for displaying the visual information collected. However, SCADA software allows the user to customize the image to include graphics and objects as well as the data information.

Soltys et al. teach that in a casino environment where the gaming is fast paced and large sums of money are trading hands, the casino becomes a likely target for cheating. For this reason, Soltys et al. disclose that it is very well known to employ a variety of security measures including cameras covering a gaming system to provide a live or taped video signal that personnel can closely examine. Information is generated from this camera and will help casinos detect fraud (Column 1, lines 59-67).

As camera surveillance is well known in the art, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to incorporate the camera surveillance as disclosed by Soltys et al. into the gaming system of Howington in view of SCADA. One of ordinary skill in the art would be motivated to do so in order to provide a security function to the casino monitoring system of Howington. Therefore, upon selection of a machine that is under suspicion, the personnel would be able to watch the surveillance feed to determine if fraud has occurred. This would provide the

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casino with a greater amount of security as well as the ability to better track fraudulent players and prevent stealing and cheating which is a major concern in casino security.

Claim 18 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Howington (US Application Publication 2002/01152120) in view of Soltys et al. (US Patent No. 6,460,848).

What Howington discloses has been discussed above and is incorporated herein.

Howington discloses a system and method for casino management used to monitor a number of gaming machines in the system.

Howington does not disclose a camera for collecting image information or to provide visual information regarding a portion of the gaming system. Howington also does not disclose means for displaying the visual information collected.

Soltys et al. teach that in a casino environment where the gaming is fast paced and large sums of money are trading hands, the casino becomes a likely target for cheating. For this reason, Soltys et al. disclose that it is very well known to employ a variety of security measures including cameras covering a gaming system to provide a live or taped video signal that personnel can closely examine. Information is generated from this camera and will help casinos detect fraud (Column 1, lines 59-67).

As camera surveillance is well known in the art, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to incorporate the camera surveillance as disclosed by Soltys et al. into the gaming system of Howington. One of ordinary skill in the art would be motivated to do so in order to provide a security function to the casino monitoring system of Howington. Therefore, upon selection of a machine that is under suspicion, the personnel would be able to watch the

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surveillance feed to determine if fraud has occurred. This would provide the casino with a greater amount of security as well as the ability to better track fraudulent players and prevent stealing and cheating which is a major concern in casino security.

Response to Arguments

Regarding the Applicant's argument that the rejections under Howington (US Patent Application 2002/0152120) are not proper due to the fact that the publication is not itself a prior art reference to the Applicant's invention, the Examiner agrees that the figures 9 and 10 are not present in the application. However, the Examiner has found adequate support in the provisional disclosure for the features of claims 13-17 and 19 and has thus repeated the rejection in accordance to that which is present in the disclosure of the provisional.

Applicant's arguments with respect to claim 1-12 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection. The added limitation of the system actually existing in a physical environment was not present in the prior set of claims, and thus a new rejection was required. The rejections based upon Wiltshire et al. alone have been withdrawn above.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

NSEC NES-2000 FOURTH QUARTER: Disclosure of CiTect SCADA systems as easy-to-use, point-and-click GUI providing further support for the motivation of using such a system to navigate a floor.

The Visual Display of Quantitative Information: Discloses the various ways in which a user can display information for clear portrayal. Discusses accessible complexity and ways to friendly explain graphics. Most importantly notes, *“Design is choice. The theory of visual display of quantitative information consists of principles that generate design options ...What is to be sought in designs for the display of information is the clear portrayal of complexity. Not the complication of the simple; rather the designer is to give visual access to the subtle and the difficult, that is the revelation of the complex.”*

US Patent No. 6,629,003: SCADA system with a display of parts in the machine with information about parts and the ability to navigate between different displays.

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to C. Marks whose telephone number is (703)-305-7497. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday (7:30AM - 5:30 PM).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Teresa J Walberg can be reached on (703)-308-1327. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703)-308-1148.



cmm
October 2, 2003



Teresa Walberg
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Group 3700